



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

# Weekly Weather Crop Report

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Week ending April 8, 2007

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, April 8, 2007**. Although row crop planting continued to advance this week, many producers are concerned that the extreme low temperatures received over the weekend have caused moderate to severe damage to seedling corn, winter wheat and other specialty crops. While hope remains that the corn is in an early enough stage to recover, it will take several days to determine the full magnitude of this misfortune. Soil moisture was rated 21 percent very short, 47 percent short, 31 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

Crop progress for week ending 04/08/07

| Crop                       | This week | Last week | Last year | 5-year average |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
|                            | Percent   | Percent   | Percent   | Percent        |
| Corn, planted              | 94        | 88        | 76        | 66             |
| Corn, emerged              | 85        | 64        | 49        | 36             |
| Cotton, planted            | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0              |
| Hay-Cool Season, harvested | 7         | 0         | 2         | 3              |
| Rice, planted              | 15        | 4         | 5         | 6              |
| Rice, emerged              | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0              |
| Sorghum, planted           | 9         | 2         | 8         | 7              |
| Sorghum, emerged           | 1         | --        | --        | --             |
| Soybeans, planted          | 23        | 17        | 31        | 17             |
| Soybeans, emerged          | 13        | 5         | 9         | 4              |
| Watermelons, planted       | 50        | 38        | 40        | 42             |
| Winter Wheat, jointing     | 90        | 75        | 85        | 81             |
| Winter Wheat, heading      | 40        | 20        | 24        | 14             |

Crop condition for week ending 04/08/07

| Item         | Very poor | Poor    | Fair    | Good    | Excellent |
|--------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
|              | Percent   | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent   |
| Blueberries  | 1         | 7       | 48      | 31      | 13        |
| Corn         | 1         | 11      | 42      | 42      | 4         |
| Livestock    | 6         | 18      | 37      | 36      | 3         |
| Pasture      | 3         | 13      | 47      | 33      | 4         |
| Winter Wheat | 3         | 5       | 54      | 33      | 5         |

## Comments

“Low temperatures over the weekend ranged from 28 – 31 degrees for Friday and Saturday. Most of the wheat in Tunica County is fully headed. We suspect that some damage has been done at this critical stage of development, but we do not yet know the extent of the damage.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Below freezing temperatures during the Easter weekend have corn and wheat growers concerned. Most corn in the area is less than six inches tall and should recover from freeze damage. Wheat is mostly from boot to flowering stage and vulnerable to freeze damage. It will take several days for damage to become evident and allow assessment of the damage.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“We are experiencing cold temps! It is too early to tell the full damage, but wheat and sweetpotatoes are taking the biggest hit in area. Some plant beds under covers were nearing maturity but were frost-burned severely; later-planted beds should be fine. Wheat is headed out and had looked like the best in years, but we will see yield losses now.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Most corn was damaged due to cold, windy weather over Easter weekend, but most of it should recover due to the growing point still being in the ground. Headed wheat also suffered some cold and wind damage although it is still too early to tell how badly damaged it is.”

— Charlie Stokes, Monroe

“Cold weather did move into the area this weekend; however, it was not as cold as predicted. Temperatures only got into the mid 30's, and I have not heard of frost damage.”

— Mike Howell, Covington

“Frost damage is a real concern. Vegetable crops are going to be the most affected, but it’s not nearly what we were expecting. Fruits have very slight damage.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“We will have to wait and see how much the cold weather has hurt our crops. The corn looks bad; the rice looks white. I do not know about the wheat. Soybeans look the best.”

— Don Respass, Coahoma

“Everyone is worried sick about the low temperatures and the effect that it will have on the crops that have emerged. It could be very serious. We will be looking closely to determine just how much damage we sustained. The temperatures dipped well below freezing and stayed there for several hours for two days in a row.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“I don't know what the freeze has done to our row crops yet, but the Bermuda was burned back severely by Saturday afternoon. Corn is brown and flat on the ground, but all our corn was less than 6 inches tall, so it should come back out. We will give it a day or two and start to evaluate it then.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Recent freezing temperatures have dealt a pretty severe blow to our locally planted wheat. Corn has suffered some damage as well, as we are still planting most acres.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Some rain was received last week. We are still 4 to 6 inches below our normal totals for this time of the year. Spring cool season grasses were stressed the past three days with freezing temperatures falling as low as 24° F. Pasture fertilizer prices are out of sight running \$350 to \$400 per ton.”

— Mike Howell, Lee

“The soil is too dry to germinate any seed, including weed seed, and now we have frost damage. By mid-week, we should have a good idea of the extent of the frost damage.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“It is still extremely dry. Crops are growing slowly. The weekend freeze does not appear to have killed any emerged crops.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Growers were very concerned about the threat of freezing temperatures and the damage it might do to seedling corn and heading wheat. It now appears that temperatures stopped just short of the level at which damage would have been done; however, we will not be certain of this until a few days have passed.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Last week many of the row crop producers in Madison County received some needed rain. Crops seem to be in good condition.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“We continue to run 8 inches behind on rainfall. Most row crop planting has stopped while producers are waiting on moisture. A cold snap dipped temperatures into the low 30’s.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Corn is looking good at this time. Almost all of the corn crop is planted and emerged. I have seen a couple of fields that have Chinch bugs in them although numbers are below threshold levels at this time. We are looking at freezing weather this weekend, April 7th through April 9th. Temperatures in the twenties are predicted. We will see how much damage this causes in the next week or two.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Cold weather had watermelon growers scrambling to protect young plants from frigid temperatures. Thankfully temperatures did not get quite as cold as predicted. We still need more rain. Corn and winter pastures really responded to the showers early last week, but cold temperatures have slowed growth.”

— Victor Lee, Simpson

(Additional comments appear at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>)

| Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 04/08/07 |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
|--|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-----|---------------|-------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| Division/Station                                     | Air Temperature |     |     |      |     | Precipitation |       |           |            | 4 Inch Soil Temperature |     |     | Avg Plan Evap |
|  | Max             | Min | Avg | Norm | DFN | One Week      | DFN   | Rain Days | Four Weeks | Max                     | Min | Avg |               |
| <b>Upper Delta</b>                                   |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Cleveland  | 87              | 30  | 54  | 59   | -5  | 0.00          | -1.26 | 0         | 0.45       |                         |     |     |               |
| Lambert  | 90              | 29  | 57  |      |     | 0.70          | -0.43 | 1         | 1.25       |                         |     |     |               |
| Tunica   | 85              | 31  | 54  | 59   | -5  | 0.43          | -0.90 | 1         | 2.38       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 90              | 29  | 56  | 59   | -5  | 0.37          | -0.86 | 1         | 1.36       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>North-Central</b>                                 |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Calhoun City   | 83              | 28  | 55  | 58   | -3  | 0.79          | -0.54 | 2         | 1.27       |                         |     |     |               |
| Hickory Flat   | 87              | 23  | 53  | 57   | -4  | 0.66          | -0.65 | 1         | 0.66       |                         |     |     |               |
| Independence   | 83              | 25  | 53  | 57   | -4  | 0.24          | -0.90 | 1         | 1.01       |                         |     |     |               |
| Oxford   | 85              | 26  | 54  | 57   | -3  | 0.98          | -0.26 | 2         | 1.71       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 87              | 23  | 54  | 58   | -4  | 0.67          | -0.59 | 2         | 1.16       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>Northeast</b>                                     |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Booneville   | 85              | 25  | 53  | 57   | -4  | 0.50          | -0.76 | 1         | 0.57       |                         |     |     |               |
| Iuka   |                 |     |     | 55   |     | 0.82          | -0.45 | 1         | 0.84       |                         |     |     |               |
| Ripley   | 85              | 25  | 55  | 56   | -1  | 0.61          | -0.72 | 1         | 0.61       |                         |     |     |               |
| Tupelo   | 85              | 29  | 58  |      |     | 0.58          | 0.00  | 3         | 0.58       |                         |     |     |               |
| Verona   | 84              | 29  | 55  | 58   | -3  | 1.00          | -0.28 | 2         | 1.97       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 85              | 25  | 54  | 57   | -3  | 0.70          | -0.55 | 2         | 0.91       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>Lower Delta</b>                                   |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Moorhead   | 84              | 32  | 57  | 61   | -4  | 0.16          | -1.17 | 1         | 0.51       |                         |     |     |               |
| Rolling Fork   | 88              | 35  | 59  | 61   | -2  | 0.30          | -1.07 | 2         | 0.99       |                         |     |     |               |
| Stoneville   | 88              | 32  | 58  | 61   | -3  | 0.21          | -1.08 | 2         | 0.70       |                         |     |     |               |
| Yazoo City   |                 |     |     | 62   |     | 0.60          | -0.87 | 1         | 1.40       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 88              | 32  | 58  | 61   | -3  | 0.32          | -1.05 | 2         | 0.90       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>Central</b>                                       |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Canton   | 83              | 32  | 57  | 62   | -5  | 0.15          | -1.24 | 2         | 1.20       |                         |     |     |               |
| Carthage   | 82              | 31  | 61  | 60   | 1   | 0.57          | -0.83 | 2         | 2.65       |                         |     |     |               |
| Eupora   | 85              | 27  | 55  | 58   | -3  | 0.37          | -1.01 | 2         | 0.86       |                         |     |     |               |
| Lexington  | 83              | 27  | 57  | 60   | -3  | 0.50          | -0.84 | 2         | 0.90       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 85              | 27  | 56  | 60   | -4  | 0.39          | -0.98 | 2         | 1.40       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>East-Central</b>                                  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Aberdeen   | 85              | 28  | 57  | 58   | -1  | 0.51          | -0.79 | 2         | 0.65       |                         |     |     |               |
| Houston  | 83              | 25  | 53  | 58   | -5  | 0.88          | -0.44 | 2         | 1.57       |                         |     |     |               |
| Philadelphia   | 84              | 42  | 64  | 61   | 3   | 0.77          | -0.61 | 2         | 1.52       |                         |     |     |               |
| State University                                     | 86              | 28  | 57  | 59   | -2  | 2.80          | 1.43  | 2         | 3.23       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 86              | 25  | 55  | 60   | -5  | 1.24          | -0.10 | 2         | 1.74       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>Southwest</b>                                     |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Crystal Springs                                      | 84              | 34  | 60  | 62   | -2  | 0.51          | -0.95 | 2         | 1.74       |                         |     |     |               |
| Natchez  |                 |     |     | 63   |     | 0.43          | -1.06 | 3         | 1.26       |                         |     |     |               |
| Oakley   |                 |     |     | 61   |     | 1.79          | 0.32  | 2         | 1.83       |                         |     |     |               |
| Vicksburg  | 83              | 36  | 61  |      |     | 0.44          | 0.00  | 3         | 1.65       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 84              | 34  | 60  | 62   | -2  | 0.79          | -0.56 | 2         | 1.62       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>South-Central</b>                                 |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Collins  | 83              | 36  | 59  | 62   | -3  | 0.60          | -0.76 | 2         | 1.90       |                         |     |     |               |
| Columbia   | 85              | 39  | 62  | 63   | -1  | 1.23          | -0.21 | 4         | 2.17       |                         |     |     |               |
| Tylertown  |                 |     |     | 63   |     | 0.95          | -0.38 | 2         | 1.78       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 85              | 36  | 60  | 63   | -3  | 0.93          | -0.45 | 3         | 1.95       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>Southeast</b>                                     |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Beaumont   |                 |     |     |      |     | 0.00          | 0.00  | 0         | 0.00       |                         |     |     |               |
| Hattiesburg  |                 |     |     | 63   |     | 1.36          | 0.00  | 2         | 1.86       |                         |     |     |               |
| Laurel   | 85              | 36  | 60  | 62   | -2  | 0.68          | -0.58 | 2         | 1.34       |                         |     |     |               |
| Newton   | 84              | 28  | 56  | 60   | -4  | 0.84          | -0.63 | 3         | 1.26       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      | 85              | 28  | 58  | 62   | -4  | 0.96          | -0.40 | 3         | 1.46       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>Coastal</b>                                       |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |               |
| Gulfport   | 79              | 38  | 61  | 65   | -4  | 0.18          | -1.02 | 2         | 4.38       |                         |     |     |               |
| Pascagoula 3 NE                                      |                 |     |     | 63   |     | 0.00          | -1.11 | 0         | 0.00       |                         |     |     |               |
| Picayune   |                 |     |     | 63   |     | 0.00          | -1.29 | 0         | 0.80       |                         |     |     |               |
| Extreme/Average                                      |                 |     |     | 64   |     | 0.06          | -1.13 | 1         | 1.73       |                         |     |     |               |
| <b>State</b>   | 90              | 23  | 57  | 61   | -4  | 0.60          | -0.77 | 2         | 1.60       |                         |     |     |               |

DFN = Departure from Normal.